

Hawaii Marine

Multinational training heats up in Hawaii for Rim of the Pacific 2012

Cpl. Ben Eberle
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Hawaii-based Marines are no strangers to the military training facilities here. During this evolution, they had a rare opportunity to host counterparts from around the world.

Two rifle companies with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were part of a multinational team of ground troops that came ashore to conduct live-fire training July 17 through 23, all part of Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2012.

Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 3 comprised of personnel from nine nations who worked side-by-side to complete squad and platoon-level tactical assault courses, as well as conduct grenade and rocket launcher training.

The multinational force trained together for more than a month, enhancing their interoperability through numerous land-based and amphibious exercises during RIMPAC, which concluded Aug. 3.

“About two weeks before we all got on ship, we’d been working with the other nationalities on Marine Corps Base Hawaii and trained with them at the (military operations in urban terrain) facility and out in the field,” said Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Callahan, a squad leader with Company A, and native of Pembroke, Mass. “We showed them how we did it, and we experienced how they did it. We got to know each other a lot and we made a lot of friends.”

During the first few days at PTA, Company A trained with Mexican and South Korean Marines on squad-level infantry tactics. During the training, troops would advance along a flat, rocky terrain and engage targets at unknown distances.

At one point, the squad was “pinned down” by enemy suppressive fire and

“THEY’RE GRUNTS, JUST LIKE US.”
— Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Callahan, squad leader

had to wait as friendly machine-gun fire provided cover for further advancement. The course ended with a squad forming a firing line and engaging the remaining targets.

“They’re grunts just like us,” said Callahan. “They have the same slang

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HONORED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, commends Lance Cpl. Zachery Fisher, squad leader, India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at Dewey Square, Aug. 3. Amos presented Fisher and Cpl. Matthew Gusty, team leader, India Co., 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, with Purple Hearts for wounds received in Afghanistan on Feb. 19. “It’s a great honor,” said Fisher, a native of Roanoke, Va., in regards to receiving his Purple Heart from the commandant. Gusty, of Pittsburgh, said meeting the commandant was a “big surprise” and a “one-in-a-million chance.” He said he appreciated the commandant for taking the time out to visit the base. Amos came to share his thoughts with service members, present awards and answer general questions. He also answered various inquiries regarding the tattoo policy, the uniform sleeve policy, ethics courses and tuition assistance. “I don’t know that I’ve seen a better change of command, better looking Marines, than I saw yesterday and I want to say thank you,” Amos said of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Change of Command which happened the previous day.



Cpl. Tyler Main | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen shares a moment with his son, Capt. David D. Thiessen, before retiring during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 2.

The last Marine Corps milestone ... retirement

Cpl. Tyler Main
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

After an impressive showing of Marine Corps pageantry, including a 19-gun artillery salute, a demonstration of musical proficiency by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band and a sharp example of military drill by the parade formation, Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen

relinquished command of MarForPac to Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling before retiring during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Aug. 2.

The change of command and departure of one of the Marine Corps’ top officers drew the attendance of many distinguished visitors

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PAWS FOR A NIGHT OUT



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Sophia Maleki, 4, and Giselle Melgar, 4, meet McGruff the Crime Dog at National Night Out, Monday. For the full story, see A2.



Golf fore life!
Learn golf and life skills at First Tee Hawaii, **B-1**



Waikiki water fun
Fun in and on the water with Waikiki Ocean Club, **C-1**

Saturday

High — 83
Low — 75

Sunday

High — 83
Low — 75

NEWS BRIEFS

Headphones prohibited while jogging/biking on MCBH

Reminder: wearing headphones is strictly prohibited while jogging, walking, skating, skateboarding or bicycling on any streets aboard MCB Hawaii. This regulation is being enforced by the Provost Marshal's Office and applies to all service members, family members and civilians. Contact Base Safety at 257-1830 for more information.

New MCBH Child Care Waitlist Pilot Program

The new MCB Hawaii Child Care Waitlist Process begins in August. DoD has implemented a new online waitlist registration pilot program called MCY First for families on a child care waitlist and for any family planning to enroll in child care. To register your child for any military-operated child care option, visit <http://www.mcyfirst.com>. This online waitlist does not take the place of the enrollment process, however, will allow parents an opportunity to submit child care requests before moving on to their next duty location. Visit <http://www.mccshawaii.com>. For more information, contact the CYTP Resource and Referral Office at 257-7240/7430 or call the MCY First toll-free hotline at 1-855-696-2934.

Illegal off-road drivers to be criminally cited

Law enforcement officers will cite offending recreational off-roaders on criminal misdemeanor charges if found on public lands, such as Kaena Point, or if found trespassing within closed areas such as Waikane Valley or Sacred Falls State Park. Recreational off-roading on public lands is strictly prohibited and is a criminal offense if you are cited. For details about Hawaii's recreational trails and off-road access areas, call the Department of Land and Natural Resources at 587-0166.

Lawrence Road intermittent lane closures

The Facilities Department Carpenter Shop will be intermittently closing the North/East bound lane of traffic on Lawrence Road between Bingham Way and Manning Street. The temporary closures will take place Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (as needed) to construct two ADA handicap ramps. The construction will begin Tuesday and last approximately three weeks. For more information, contact the Facilities Department Carpenter Shop at 257-2016.

Mobile Counter-IED Interactive Trainer open

The Mobile Counter-IED Interactive Trainer is now open for scheduling and use. The MCIT is a mobile, highly flexible, enhanced training solution which will improve the training and readiness of warfighters in environments where improvised explosive devices are employed against our military forces. The training technologies include, but are not limited to, mixed reality stage crafting, virtual human guidance, video footage and an interactive IED/C-IED simulation. The MCIT trainer is located in the Boondocker Training Area and use is scheduled through the RFMSS program. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Units should be ready in advance to form teams of four for the best benefit of this trainer. For details about the MCIT, contact Lee Fry at 257-1110.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine
www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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MCB Hawaii hosts first National Night Out

Kristen Wong

Photojournalist

Marines, sailors and civilians brought their families to Mokapu Mall Tuesday evening for Marine Corps Base Hawaii's first National Night Out.

National Night Out is observed annually worldwide, and was established in 1984 by the National Association of Town Watch.

Officials and staff from various organizations including National Oceanic Atmospheric Association, Provost Marshal's Office and Marine Corps Community Services set up booths to educate the community about their efforts.

Officer Derek Hinkley, Crime Prevention Division chief, PMO, said National Night Out gives the MCB Hawaii community a chance to see various agencies and get to know what services are available for them.

"I think we as a department definitely want to host this again," Hinkley said.

"National Night Out is in its 29th year of unifying communities and building strong, positive community partnerships, and it sends the message that any criminal activity is not welcome on Marine Corps Base Hawaii," said Lt. Col. Carolyn Bird, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion. "Organizations that are participating this evening are well rounded and here to talk to you about what they represent. We have law enforcement, emergency services, substance abuse and prevention and other key agencies whose sole purpose is to support the community both on and off this installation."

Among those participating in the event was Sgt. Jonathan



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Isabella Maduka, 6, makes a booklet of her fingerprints to be given to the police department.

McClure, traffic chief, PMO. McClure showcased police vehicles and equipment at the event.

"A lot of people are curious and don't always approach a police officer," McClure said.

Through National Night Out, he said people can feel more comfortable getting to know the police and what they do for the community. But he said he also learned a few things of his own while his son visited the fire department. He learned that all houses should have a fire extinguisher and where to acquire one.

"It's pretty nice," said Cpl. Federico Rojas, company clerk, Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, of the event. "I've been here six years, and noticed they're doing more and more to educate about safety."

Marine Corps Civilian Police Officer Lt. Vernon Kong, of the Special Response Team at PMO,

showed equipment to visitors. Kong said National Night Out helps to "foster positive relationship with the community that we serve." He said it helps to show police officers in a new light, and remind everyone that they are also part of the community.

During the event, many attendees, including Staff Sgt. Freddy Velasquez, operations chief, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, and his son signed a pledge to "be a jerk," and support the "Be a Jerk" campaign. The campaign encourages adults not to buy or provide alcohol for minors.

Velasquez said "it's good to know there are a lot of programs" that help in the prevention of the incidents that people hear about, such as minors with alcohol.

The children also came to National Night Out, enjoying little trinkets from the organizations and agencies, trying out official equipment, meeting McGruff the Crime Dog, and jumping in bounce houses.

"It's really fun," said Makayla Manion, 10, who made a booklet of her fingerprints so authorities have it on record if she is lost. Not only did she get to hang out with friends, she also learned about the process of putting her information into the police system, and visited the police cars on display.

Hinkley said MCB Hawaii is eligible for three special National Night Out awards and will be submitting a package. If those who attended would like to help out by providing drawings, photos and comments about their National Night Out experience to derek.hinkley@usmc.mil or stop by PMO by Aug. 31. For more information about National Night Out, visit <http://www.natw.org/>.

Mrs. Hawaii 2012 to speak at Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii

Karen S. Spangler

Hookele Managing Editor

HONOLULU — Stacey Bass Snee, who was crowned as Mrs. Hawaii 2012 at the local pageant held April 15, will be the guest speaker for the Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii 2012. The conference, themed "Anchors Away in Paradise," will be held Oct. 20 at the Ford Island Conference Center.

The online registration for this year's Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii will be launched Sept. 7. Snee, who is a Navy spouse, mother of two children, former naval officer and veteran, and registered dietician, will offer her insight on the role of military spouses in their communities. "I have learned from these past few months of competing for and winning the title of Mrs. Hawaii that everyone has something to offer to their neighborhood, city or the broader community, and it may just take stepping a bit out of one's comfort zone to ultimately be in a position to put your talents to work," Snee said.

At this year's Joint Spouses' Conference, spouses will be able to choose from more than 25 workshops, held at such venues as Battleship Missouri Memorial, Pacific Aviation Museum, control tower and Hangar 79, Navy Lodge, Rainbow Bay Marina and Pearl Harbor barges.

"We're very excited about the workshops at the upcoming conference. Our talented and enthusiastic presenters will appeal to your mind, body and soul, so we hope spouses from all over the islands will join us for a memorable day on beautiful and historic Ford Island," said Joanne Neyland, an Army spouse

and co-chair for the JSC workshops committee.

Military spouses will also have the opportunity to immerse themselves in interactive workshops, such as photography, interior decorating and art.

Attendees will be able to choose four workshops from a selection of more than 25 which are being offered. A workshop featuring a remembrance tour of Dec. 7, 1941 will provide an opportunity for conference attendees to board a VIP Navy barge and enjoy a special narrated tour of Pearl Harbor.

The annual Joint Spouses' Conference provides a forum for spouses of active duty, reserve and retired military members of all services and ranks to learn, network and help each in their challenging roles as spouses, parents, professionals and community leaders through workshops and special guest speakers.

Whether spouses have been on the island for awhile or are new to Hawaii, the conference offers a unique opportunity to meet and network with more than 350 spouses. "I think the JSC is a great opportunity for military spouses from each of the branches of service to come together to network and learn from each other while also having some fun. It's a day to recognize what we have in common and draw strength from our shared experiences," Snee said.

Register for the conference via the JSC website at <http://jschawaii.com>. Interested military spouses can also obtain more information through military spouse groups island-wide and by visiting the JSC website or Facebook page.

(Editor's note: Watch future issues of Hookele for more details about the 2012 Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii.)

Cub Scouts collect food for Feds Feed Families



Courtesy of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tony Bieren

Cub Scout Mike Ortiz collects a food donation from a firefighter at the base commissary. The Cub Scouts of Pack 225 collected approximately 1,000 pounds of food Sunday. "The boys learned a valuable lesson in community service and were excited to help feed those in need," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tony Bieren, the cubmaster of Pack 225. "The base cub scouts have tremendous support from military families who donated food and I am sure the base will exceed by far what we collected last year."

AROUND THE CORPS

CLR-27 drops anchor in Maine

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson
2nd Marine Logistics Group

ROCKLAND, Maine — They came on gentle, rolling seas. The USS San Antonio’s engine droned calmly as it pushed the ship’s bow through cresting waves on its approach to the coast of Rockland, Maine, the morning of Aug. 1.

Only fog and a short-lived rain hindered the troops’ two-day voyage, a quick endeavor for the Marine and Navy team trained to strike distant, hostile shores. Maine’s coast promised a far warmer welcome for the nearly 100 Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Regiment 27 sent to support Maine’s 2012 Lobster Festival from Aug. 1 to 5.

“These [Marines and sailors] were handpicked from their sections to participate in this event,” said Capt. James Mackin, commander of troops for the regiment’s Lobster Festival detachment. “A lot of people where we are going are unfamiliar with the military. They know the broad brush strokes, but this will give them the opportunity to see the Marines and sailors in uniform with all their gear.”

The regiment’s personnel escaped the blanket heat of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and joined the more than 300 crew and support personnel on the San Antonio at Norfolk Naval Base, Va., July 29.

The unified Marine-Navy team then proceeded north to demonstrate their combined abilities to the people of Maine.

The San Antonio pressed through the telltale fishing buoys that announced their arrival in lobster territory and dropped anchor off of Rockland. Marines and sailors donned their dress uniforms.

Shore parties are scheduled to join the festivities, said Gunnery Sgt. Morris Holliday, the detachment’s first sergeant. Troops will spend the week refurbishing an area lighthouse, assisting in the festival’s

beauty pageant and concerts, escorting area officials to events and participating in a 10-kilometer race. Above all, they will meet and interact with the American public.

“It’s definitely a break in the routine, and it lets the Marines see what else is out there,” said Mackin. “People see the uniform, and they appreciate what you do. They thank you for your service. I think it hasn’t really set in for most of the [Marines and sailors],” he added over the competing hum of the living ship. “They’re trying to anticipate what to expect, but it’s going to be a surprise to most of them.”

Maine’s 2012 Lobster Festival is a unique opportunity for the detachment personnel. It is the first sea passage for many of them, and it is a chance to practice the joint service capabilities they are trained to support.

The troops on the San Antonio are not the only ones in for a surprise. Visitors will be able to tour the vessel and experience the sway and sound of the ship for themselves. Marines and sailors will guide the public through displays of their vehicles and equipment, such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected – All Terrain Vehicle and different types of crew-served weapons.

Approximately 100 service members are also scheduled to march in the festival’s parade, with more than a few pounds of lobster awaiting their hungry arrival.

“They’ll remember,” said Holliday, recalling a similar venture he took to Puerto Rico as a highlight in his career. “It isn’t often many of the servicemembers get a chance to join the American public in uniform.”

It is a small exercise in the large muscle group of Marine-Navy combined arms to be sure. The talk of the crew, however, has more than a few Marines and sailors ready to challenge the lobsters for supremacy during their sea voyage.



Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson | 2nd Marine Logistics Group
Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group sign out for their first day of liberty in Rockland, Maine, aboard the USS San Antonio after their two-day voyage to Maine’s 2012 Lobster Festival, Aug. 1.

Afghan combat support soldiers work with Marines

Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter
Regimental Combat Team 6

COMBAT OUTPOST FIDDLERS GREEN, Afghanistan — The future success of Afghanistan’s security depends largely on the abilities of the country’s armed forces.

In southern Helmand province, Marines have been training and advising Afghan National Army soldiers on how to be a military force, helping lay the foundation for the ANA’s future success. Training runs the gamut from basic infantry training to administrative and logistical support.

At Combat Outpost Fiddlers Green, Marines are advising an Afghan combat support kandak, the 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps.

A kandak is the Afghan Army equivalent to a battalion. Combat support includes combat engineers, artillery and reconnaissance assets.

Col. John R. Shafer, commanding officer, Regimental Combat Team 6, recently met with 4th Kandak leadership to get an update on their progress.

“We pay attention to our responsibilities,” Maj. Mohammad Naim, 4th Kandak’s executive officer, said. His soldiers, he added, regularly go out on foot patrols and man checkpoints in their area of operations.



Staff Sgt. Brian Buckwalter | Regimental Combat Team 6
Col. John R. Shafer, commanding officer, Regimental Combat Team 6, shakes hands with Maj. Sadik, operations officer, 4th Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Corps, July 27.

“I am extremely impressed with your soldiers,” Shafer said to Naim about the kandak’s enthusiasm, patriotism and their rapid growth.

The team who had been working with Naim and his soldiers recently left Afghanistan.

Capt. Douglas Wacker, the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment,

working with his soldiers “helped us tremendously.” He, too, is eager to work with the new group of Marine advisors.

“One thing I guarantee, whenever the Marines ask us to go anywhere, we are ready,” said Naim.

With the new team comes a shift in the relationship between the Marine advisors and Afghan soldiers, said Shafer. The ANA is at the point where they have proven they’re ready to do things on their own.

“You need to start telling the advisor team what they need to do for you,” Shafer said during his meeting with kandak leadership.

The advisor team is ready to fill in gaps where needed, he said, but the ANA at Fiddlers Green needs to start planning and doing their own operations.

Wacker, from Seattle, said the goal of his team is to fully transition the responsibility of combat support to the Afghan kandak.

He said he would like to see the 4th Kandak here be able to supply, maintain and provide all the combat support for the ANA in the area.

“If they can figure out how to do that with the chain of command, then they’ll be very successful,” said Wacker.

In step to step up: Marines, sailors fight substance abuse in military

Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Marines, sailors and families took part in the Semper Fit “That Guy” 5K fun run starting from the sports complex, down the Physical Fitness Test course and back aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 1.

The mission behind events like this is to create summer-long unit competitions, events utilizing programs that share the mission of eliminating illegal drug use and promoting responsible use of alcohol within the military.

“It gives Marines better knowledge about appropriate use of alcohol,” said Lance Cpl. Chad Jenson, a ground radio repair technician with Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 and a Redondo Beach, Calif., native. “‘That Guy’ is the person in the group who is tripping over himself, does stupid things, gets laughed at and has to be babysat.”

Marines have not forgotten the idea behind the program; in fact, some have seen the trademark ‘Guy’ at work, out in town and on weekends.

“It’s a cool idea to get out of the shop and learn about these types of things,” said Jenson. “There are times when I’ve seen other groups of people who dealt with a person like ‘That Guy’ and I just think to myself, ‘Thank God I’m not with that guy because I don’t want take care of him.’”

The program is for Marines of every rank. To prove this and show their support, Col. John P. Farnam, the commanding officer for the air station and his wife, KathyJean, joined the event and ran with the Marines.

One thought behind the program with those who set it up was to help educate service members on the benefits of appropriate alcohol use.

“The campaign uses humor to deliver a serious message and provides viral tools so you can be part of the effort to eradicate ‘That Guy,’” said Julie Carlson-Howard, a Semper Fit representative. “Staying healthy and keeping yourself ‘in check’ when drinking can still be fun and safe at the same time! Your mind, body and spirit will thank you for it!”

After completing the run participants received free “That Guy” shirts as well as other various items in support of drug awareness and improved fitness awareness.



Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns | Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
Col. John P. Farnam, the commanding officer of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., and wife speak to Semper Fit staff after a Semper Fit “That Guy” 5K fun run at the Miramar Sports Complex aboard MCAS Miramar, Aug. 1.

Storm the BEACH

Marines, Australian soldiers conduct AAV assault for RIMPAC culminating event



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

AAVs with Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, come ashore at Pyramid Rock Beach during the RIMPAC 2012 maritime multinational naval exercise, Aug. 1. The beach landing was a part of a mechanized assault on the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility.

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter

Combat Correspondent

Concluding the Rim of the Pacific 2012 maritime multinational naval exercise, Australian soldiers of the Royal Australian Light Infantry conducted a live-fire mechanized assault training exercise with Marines of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility, Aug. 1.

During the exercise, amphibious assault vehicles debarked from USS Essex (LHD-2) and “stormed” the beaches at Pyramid Rock and transitioned over to the range area where Marines and Australian soldiers boarded the vehicles before advancing toward the range. As the AAVs approached the range, mortar

and sniper teams laid down suppressive fire while the vehicles moved to key positions so the Australian soldiers could get of the vehicles and engage targets.

“This is our culminated exercise with all of the basic components of a mechanized assault,” said 2nd Lt. Kyle Durant, AAV platoon commander, Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment. “We have a decent amount of firepower here and the whole point is to gain a foothold in any area that we would attack.”

After the Australian soldiers reached the end of the range, the soldiers boarded the AAVs to conclude their primary training operations for RIMPAC.

“Hawaii has a lot of valuable training ranges like

the ones at [Pohakuloa Training Area] and the MATCH house at this range,” said Australian Pvt. James Bond, infantryman, RALI. “During our time together, we learned from the Marines a lot on urban combat and training and in turn we taught them some of our field craft when in the bush.”

After the Australian soldiers reached the end of the range, the soldiers boarded the AAVs to conclude their primary training operations for RIMPAC.

“This RIMPAC has been basically the best three weeks of training,” Durant said. “It’s been pretty cool working with the other nations because some of them have the same tactics that we use and overall it creates a [Marine Expeditionary Unit]-like exercise at sea.”



Australian soldiers with the Royal Australian Light Infantry unload from an AAV and move to engage targets during a mechanized assault at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility for the RIMPAC 2012 maritime multinational naval exercise, Aug. 1.

Australian soldiers with the Royal Australian Light Infantry watch AAVs position themselves to unload more soldiers during a mechanized assault at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility during the 2012 RIMPAC maritime multinational naval exercise, Aug. 1.



Australian soldiers of the Royal Australian Light Infantry engage targets with the assistance of AAVs during a mechanized assault at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility for the RIMPAC 2012 maritime multinational naval exercise, Aug. 1.



Marines with Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, await orders to advance and position Australian soldiers of the Royal Australian Light Infantry and engage targets during a mechanized assault at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility for the RIMPAC 2012 maritime multinational naval exercise, Aug. 1.

Marines, sailors discuss motorcycling during symposium

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors talked with motorcycle safety representatives from the U.S. Navy on issues about riding safely and attending track days and riding classes during a symposium in a ballroom of the Staff Noncommissioned Officers’ Club at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course, Tuesday.

During the symposium, guest speakers talked about their experiences riding different kinds of bikes and the benefits they received from attending track days and learning to be better riders, even after several years of experience.

“I’ve been riding sport bikes for 24 years and I’ve never been without a bike,” said Master Sgt. Lansing S. Rice, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay. “It’s our culture today and young Marines and sailors are not as cautious like us older guys.”

Rear Admiral Upper Half Brain C. Prindle, commander of the Naval Safety Center, talked about how Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, took a stance and said that he trusts his Marines to take the initiative and reduce the number of motorcycle related traffic fatalities. Prindle then showed a presentation and statistics about the cause of most motorcycle fatalities and the benefits of attending classes and track days.



Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Marines and sailors attend a presentation about motorcycle safety and the benefits of taking courses on how to improve as riders during a symposium in a ballroom of the Staff Noncommissioned Officers’ Club at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course, Tuesday.

“These track days are the best thing ever and they taught me a lot,” Rice said. “After more than 20 years, it changed the way I ride.”

Rice said that if a rider is feeling the need for speed and wants to test their skills on the road, the best place to do it at a track. Service members can also attend motorcycle safety courses sponsored by military installations. The courses are broken down into three levels covering fundamentals, intermediate and advanced and refresher courses. Each level covers certain skills designed

to improve a rider’s performance, regardless of experience.

“In addition to the opportunities for the Marines and sailors to learn about the different regulations and laws concerning motorcycle safety, this is a chance for us to collect information about the people’s opinion of the track days and classes,” said April Philips, “Smart Ride” magazine editor and public affairs officer. “The Chief of Naval Operations and the commandant look at this information and then look at the policy and review it to see if there

needs to be any changes.”

After the symposium was over, the Marines and sailors could pick up a copy of “Smart Ride” magazine and learn about the benefits of safety classes and additional instruction on how to be a better rider.

“They’re people on this base that still don’t come out to these events and I’m frustrated as a rider that they ruin it for everyone else,” Rice said. “These classes do work and it’s important for us as leaders to get them here so they can learn and improve.”

SERVING WITH HONOR

Maj. Andrew Kingsbury, incoming aviation safety officer, Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, stands at the position of attention awaiting dismissal after receiving the Purple Heart. Kingsbury was deployed in April 2012 to Afghanistan when a suicide bomber hit the vehicle he was riding in with several other Marines and military personnel. Although injured, Kingsbury was able to assist in rescuing an Afghan policeman and other passengers in his vehicle. Kingsbury is a native of Seattle and will also be the MCAS Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization officer.



Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine



Cpl. Tyler Main | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen and Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling observe a pass in review of the parade formation at the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific change of command ceremony, Aug. 2. Thiessen relinquished command to Robling, then retired after his 38-year career.

RETIRE, from A-1

including Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii state governor; Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command; Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps; and other current and former general officers. Secretary of Defense, Leon E. Panetta, and the Secretary of the Navy, Ray E. Mabus, wrote letters of appreciation to Thiessen which were read during the ceremony.

Having had such a long relationship with Thiessen, Amos had a lot to say about his friend’s career, the entire time referring to Thiessen by his call sign, “Drano.”

Amos began by telling a story about how Thiessen’s grandchildren thought he was more important than both the commandant of the Marine Corps and the commander of PACOM. Amos said they were probably right.

Next, Amos spoke directly to Thiessen in front of the audience. The tone he used made it seem like they were sitting alone there, having a private conversation.

“You know (you have) never once backed away from a tough assignment,” Amos said. “Everything that has been tough, you’ve been a part of. I remember meeting you when you were a colonel and were soon to be selected for brigadier general. You were working for the assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition and your star showed brightly there. I remember reading one of the fitness reports that he wrote saying, ‘This colonel needs to be a general now, promote him immediately,’ and you were selected.”

“On behalf of those legions of Marines that have followed you, your command and your leadership, thank you. Thank you for all that you have done and thank you for your faithfulness,” Amos added.

Afterward, Thiessen took the microphone to give his final remarks.

“I came into the Marine Corps in 1974, and I have to tell

you, it was a screwed-up time in our national history,” he said. “The Marines today are far more effective, more disciplined and more capable than the Corps ever was in the 1970’s. And that’s true for all our services. The young Marines today and the young service members in all services are phenomenal when compared to any other time in our national history.”

Thiessen went on to list his significant mentors and leaders by call sign, giving a brief memory associated with each duty station he met them. He named names like Habu, The Inn Keeper, Citation, Venom, Hawkeye and Viking. As he went on, it sounded more and more like he was naming members of the comic book series “Justice League.” But, you could hear the emotion in his voice. To Thiessen, these leaders were real heroes.

Perhaps those mentors would consider him a hero, too. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his achievements while commander of MarForPac. Brig. Gen. Kim Si-Hueng, deputy commander of the Force Planning Office, Republic of Korea Marine Corps, awarded Thiessen the Order of National Security Merit Gukseon Medal.

Maybe the most meaningful of all things presented though, was when Thiessen’s son, Capt. David D. Thiessen, presented him his three-star flag near the end of the ceremony.

The letters, awards and comments, as well as the attendance of friends and Marines from across the globe, spoke volumes about the character of Thiessen as a Marine and a leader. As much as this traditional ceremony marked a transition for Thiessen into civilian life, it also gave attendees a glimpse of the impact he has had during his 38-year career.

“Tomorrow, you’re going to wake up, you’re going to shave and you’re not going to run downtown to get a bunch of tattoos or pierced ears or anything,” Amos said. “You’re going to look in the mirror and you’re going to say, ‘good morning Marine,’ because you’re going to be a Marine for the rest of your life. Semper Fidelis, my friend.”

TRAIN, from A-1

and talk about the same stuff. They train just as hard as we do, if not harder sometimes. There’s a lot of common ground between us.”

On the opposite side of PTA, Marines with Company C worked with Canadian soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, conducting platoon-level infantry tactics. The training was similar to the squad-level training except a platoon had to navigate over steep hills to engage targets at unknown distances.

“(One thing) I’ve noticed when working with the Marines is that despite the many differences between us, such as our different cultures and how we employ weapon systems, we help each other to learn new things,” said Canadian Forces Cpl. Greg G.S. Hartwick, infantryman, 2PPCLI, and native of Huntsville, Ontario. “Working with the different nationalities is a monumental opportunity because our similarities bring us together more than our differences divide us.”

After completing training at PTA, the combined force returned to ship in preparation for training exercises on the island of Oahu at Kahuku Training Area and at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

“Over the course of the training so far we’ve gotten along very well,” Callahan said. “We’ve gained a good perspective on the world from the different militaries here. It’s essentially a massive melting pot of all these different countries in the same place training together.”

Approximately 2,200 personnel participated in RIMPAC as part of the SPMAGTF-3, Combined Force Land Component Command. The CFLCC nations included Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, South Korea, Tonga and United States.

A total of more than 40 ships and submarines, 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel from 22 nations participated in the biennial RIMPAC exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands.